Steven X. Cadrin
Research Fisheries Biologist
NMFS Northeast Fisheries Science Center
166 Water Street
Woods Hole, MA 02543
(508) 495-2335 tel
(508) 495-2393 fax

Tagging Yellowtail Flounder with Commercial Fishermen. Steven X. Cadrin, Azure D. Westwood, O. Larry Alade, Rodney A. Rountree, David Martins, Darin Jones, Jeremy King, April Valliere and Heath H. Stone

N/A

Oral Presentation

Marine Fisheries

CADRIN, STEVEN X., AZURE D. WESTWOOD, O. LARRY ALADE, RODNEY A. ROUNTREE, DAVE MARTINS, DARIN JONES, JEREMY KING, APRIL VALLIERE, HEATH H. STONE.
Tagging Yellowtail Flounder with Commercial Fishermen. Northeast Fisheries Science Center, 166 Water St. Woods Hole MA 02543 (SXC, AWD, OLA). School for Marine Science and Technology, 706 Rodney French Blvd. New Bedford, MA 02744-1221 (RR, DM, DJ). Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, 50A Portside Dr. Pocasset MA 0255 (JK). Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife, 3 Fort Wetherill Rd. Jamestown RI 02935 (AV). Canada Department of Fisheries and Oceans, 531 Brandy Cove Rd. St. Andrews New Brunswick E5B 2L9 (HHS).

During 2003 and 2004, New England fishermen and fishery scientists collaborated to tag over 28,000 yellowtail flounder (*Limanda ferruginea*) in the Gulf of Maine, Cape Cod, Georges Bank, southern New England and Mid Atlantic areas using conventional disc tags and data-storage tags. In addition to developing trust and a working relationship between scientists and fishermen, the technical objectives of these efforts were to 1) estimate movements among stocks, 2) determine fishing mortality rates within stock areas, and 3) assess growth. The project, which coordinated several concurrent field studies, used a common tagging protocol, a single experimental design and tag return system, and a comprehensive outreach program. The study was designed to reduce uncertainty in yellowtail flounder stock assessments, thereby improving fishery management. Preliminary tagging results indicate frequent movements within stock areas, and infrequent movements among stocks. Data-storage tags indicate distinct off-bottom behavior, typically in evening hours, lasting an average of about four hours. Further details on the project design and results are available online at cooperative-tagging.org. A major factor contributing to the success of the project has been the close cooperation between fishermen and scientists.

Bio of presenter:
Steve Cadrin is a stock assessment biologist with the NEFSC Population Dynamics Branch in Woods Hole. He is responsible for assessing the status of yellowtail flounder stocks off the northeast U.S. Steve has a BS from Long Island University, a MS from University of Massachusetts and a PhD from University of Rhode Island, and his research is focused on population modeling and stock identification. He worked with leaders in the fishing industry and other scientists to design a tagging study aimed at addressing several uncertainties in yellowtail stock assessments and collaborated on field work and maintaining a tag reporting and reward system. Steve will continue to work with the project partners to include tagging results in scientific advice to resource managers.